

Art Unit: 2863

1. EXAMINER'S COMMENT

1.1 When preparing this Office action the examiner considers the instant application to include:

A) the Oath/Declaration filed on 30 May 2006 which is acceptable to the examiner;

B) the amended Abstract filed on 30 May 2006 which is acceptable to the examiner;

C) figures 1 & 2 of the set of drawings containing 1 sheet of 2 figures comprising figures 1 & 2 as presented in the set of drawings filed on 25 June 2007 where figures 1 & 2 of the above set of drawings are acceptable to the examiner;

D) the written description as filed on 30 May 2006 and amended on 30 May 2006 and on 13 March 2008; and

E) the set of claims as filed on 25 August 2008.

1.2 Applicant's claim for the benefit of an earlier filing date pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 120 is acknowledged.

1.3 Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

1.4 The examiner has considered the prior art cited in the base applications.

1.5 Response to applicant's arguments.

1.5.1 The objections and rejection that have not been repeated here in have been over come by applicant's last response.

2. REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2.1 The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

A) the prior art, for example:

(1) either Pickett (4,949,299) or Beaverstock et al (5,134,574) or Warrior et al (5,485,400 or 5,825,664) or Sugihara et al (6,035,247) disclose a machine/process that provides the useful and beneficial function of a distributed control machine/process that includes the use of a communications network in which one or more uniquely identified computer implemented field devices units or field distribution devices, are connected to a central unit via a common

Art Unit: 2863

communications bus or “field bus” by using a common communications protocol in order to exchange and distribute data/information between the field devices and the central unit. Where the field distribution unit performs the functions of receiving a control command via the common bus from the central controller unit and then based on the received command performs the one or more functions that are associated with the received command. Further the functions that may be performed include at least the functions of:

(1a) transmitting of data/information from a memory in the field distribution to the central controller, where the transmitted data/information includes an unique device specific identifier for the transducer; and

(1b) controlling the operation of one or more of the transducers that are connected to the field distribution unit to make measurements; and

(1c) controlling the operation of one or more of the transducers that are connected to the field distribution unit by setting control points for the transducers.

(2) Shoup et al (4,831,558) discloses a machine/process that provides the useful and beneficial function of distributed data/information collection and control network in which one or more uniquely identified intelligent transducer devices are connected to a central unit via a common communications bus through the use of a common communications protocol. In this machine/process any one or more of the at least one transducer will perform a function that is indicated by a control command that has been received over the common bus from the central controller, where the control command may instruct the transducer unit to acquire and/or transmit of data/information from the transducer to the central unit where the transmitted data/information includes an unique identifier for the transducer.

(3) either Palmer et al (5,530,702) or Oba et al (2004/0248617) in the environment of storing and transmitting device specific information disclose a clear teaching or suggestion of a machine/process that provides the useful and

Art Unit: 2863

beneficial function of using an attached RF identification tag in order to perform the functions of:

(3a) storing device specific identification data/information about the attached device; and

(3b) transmitting the stored device specific identification data/information when requested by an appropriate RF tag reader.

(4) Teraurra et al (2002/0065577) discloses a machine/process that provides the useful and beneficial function a controlled distribution process that uses ID tags in order to store item identification and destination data/information, where the ID tags may be read and function in cooperation with a global positioning system (GPS) system that is used in order to track the distribution of the tagged items from a first position as determined by the GPS system to a second position or final destination.

(5) either Teraura (2003/0042316 or 6,873,259) disclose a machine/process that provides the useful and beneficial function a centralize collection process that uses ID tags attached to monitored items in order to store item identification and item related use data/information. When the item related identification use data/information is read from the tag on the tagged item the position of the tagged item is determined from a global positioning system (GPS) system. In this manner the use of the tagged item is tracked in order to centrally monitor and track the use of the tagged items.

(6) either Yamazaki (2005/0027828) or Ashwood Smith (6,968,994) disclose a machine/process that provides the useful and beneficial function of using a RF identification tag that has been attached to an item transmit stored identification data/information about the item to a reader.

B) however, the prior art does not fairly teach or suggest in regard to claim 17 a machine in claim 17 that provides the useful and beneficial function of a distribution unit that functions as an interface between a field device and a field bus by providing structures in claim 17 that perform at least the function of:

Art Unit: 2863

(1) communicating field device specific data/information including data/information that is an identification of a field device that is connected to a field bus by using a distribution unit comprising a microcontroller/microprocessor that is connected between the field device and a field bus as a distribution unit; and

(2) using a Global Positioning System (GPS) module that is connected to the microcontroller/microprocessor in order to perform the function of providing GPS location data/information for the field device connected to the distribution unit from a GPS module to the microcontroller/microprocessor of the distribution unit.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward R. Cosimano whose telephone number is 571-272-0571. The examiner can normally be reached on 571-272-0571 from 7:30am to 4:00pm (Eastern Time).

3.1 If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow, can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

3.2 Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ERC
10/20/2008

**/Edward Cosimano/
Primary Examiner Unit 2863**